

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the consideration given the application. Claims 37-52 are pending in the application.

The claims in the application have been restricted to the following groups:

- I. Claims 37, 38 and 41-52, drawn to an intermediate product.
- II. Claims 39 and 40, drawn to a method for producing a flexible heating mat.

***Group I (claims 37, 38 and 41-52) is elected with traverse.***

The invention has been further restricted into the following species:

- Species I. (Figure 1)
- Species II. (Figure 2)
- Species III. (Figure 4)
- Species IV. (Figure 5) and
- Species V. (Figure 6).

***Species I (Figure 1) is elected with traverse. Claims 37, 41, 42 and 45-52 read on the elected species.***

As set forth in MPEP 808, an election/restriction requirement has two aspects: (A) the inventions must be independent or distinct, and (B) there must be a serious burden placed upon the Examiner.

In this case the intermediate product of Group I and the flexible heating mat of Group II, as well as the species assigned to the drawing figures, are so intimately related that no undue burden is placed upon the Examiner. Accordingly, rejoinder and examination of all the claims and species is respectfully requested.

Alternately, rejoinder is respectfully requested upon an indication of allowable subject matter, which has already been indicated in the Official Action of August 2, 2007.

Early and favorable consideration on the merits and the issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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